

XVIII.—*Ornithological Letters from the Pacific.* No. II.*

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Taluit (Bonham), Marshall Islands,
September 20, 1879.

WE left Honolulu on board the Hawaiian bark 'Hawaii,' and arrived here on the 21st of August, after having been nearly wrecked as we entered the passage into the lagoon on the preceding evening. Apart from this incident the voyage was very calm and slow. We had but gentle breezes, and were delayed for some time in the doldrums, between 7° and 5° N. lat. During our passage we only sighted land once, on the 16th of August—the Milli or Mulgrave's Islands, which group is only about 350 sea-miles distant from this.

During the whole voyage bird-life was very scarce, as was animal-life in general. The dredge brought up nothing but a few very small zoophytes; and no shark or any other big fish was seen until we reached this group. Flying-fishes were sometimes numerous, but for days together not a single one was observed.

The number of specimens and species observed in ornithology was very small; but I think I may venture to give some of my notes on them from my diary.

July 30th. One *Puffinus*, first species (black above, white underneath); one, second species (brown, paler underneath); one *Procellaria*, first species (uniform sooty brown).

July 31st One *Procellaria* (same species as yesterday); two *Phaeton* (*æthereus*); one *Sterna* (? *lmata*); in the evening, late, a *Sula* (uniform brown; certainly *S. fusca*).

August 1st. Twice a Tropic-bird (*Phaeton æthereus*); one *Sula*.

Aug. 2nd. Four *Phaeton æthereus*; one *Sula cyanops*; one *Procellaria*, first species (brown, white underneath).

Aug. 3rd. One *Procellaria*, first species; one *Phaeton*; in the distance one *Tachypetes* (the most elegant and Eagle-like flyer of the ocean).

* For No. I. see 'Ibis,' 1880, p. 75.

Aug. 4th. In the morning four *Phaeton æthereus*.

Aug. 5th. In the morning three Tropic-birds; one *Procellaria*, second species (uniform sooty); *Procellaria*, first species.

Aug. 6th. No birds.

Aug. 7th. Observed one *Puffinus* at a very great distance.

Aug. 8th. No birds.

Aug. 9th. One *Procellaria*, third species (dark, a white mark on the wing seen from above); two *Puffinus*, third species (uniform black).

Aug. 10th. A single *Phaeton*.

Aug. 11th. This day we did not count, as we crossed the 180th meridian east.

Aug. 12th. One *Procellaria*, fourth species (dark brown, white underneath, a white cross mark on the wing).

Aug. 13th. One Booby (*Sula cyanops*).

Aug. 14th. The first land-bird (? *Actitis incana*), near to the vessel.

Aug. 15th. One *Sula fusca*.

Aug. 16th. We approached the Milli or Mulgrave group within about 20 miles, but saw only a single *Puffinus* at a great distance.

Aug. 17th. Two *Phaeton flavirostris*.

Aug. 18th. Although the nearest land (Milli) is only about 23 miles distant, only two land-birds (*Actitis incana*) made their appearance.

Aug. 19th. Except a single land-bird (*Actitis*), no other bird seen.

Aug. 20th. In sight of Taluit or Bonham Island. Near the surf a great number of Noddies (*Anous melanogenys*) were hovering about over the water.

As mentioned above, on account of the bad management of the pilot, the 'Hawaii' had to anchor in the passage, so that we did not reach land until the afternoon of the 21st of August, when we were heartily welcomed by our countryman Mr. F. Hershheim, whose firm has a large establishment in this island, as well as on many others in Micronesia and Melanesia.

During the month we have stopped in Taluit I have had, on account of other work, very little opportunity of collecting birds myself; but I have sent out native hunters, who are very well acquainted with the animal-life generally, to collect. As might have been expected, the avifauna of these low coral islands is very poor. Along the beach one observes in small numbers *Anous melanogenys*, and a few examples of *Gygis candida*, *Actitis incana*, and *Ardea sacra*. Of the last-named bird I noticed dark ones in pairs, and dark ones paired with white-spotted individuals. They are now in moult; and so are *Strepsilas interpres* and *Numenius femoralis*.

Of both the last-named species I got specimens, caught by hand, having lost all their primaries. All the Turnstones were still in their summer plumage. Besides these I got *Anous melanogenys* and *Sterna melanauchen*, both in moult, *Charadrius fulvus* and a young *Carpophaga* which had just left the nest, apparently *C. oceanica*. Twice I have observed a *Eudynamis*, making the total number of birds received up to this time ten; but a native chief has furnished me with the names of sixteen species known to occur here.

I hope shortly to leave this island for the west; but there being no regular means of transit, I am quite unable to say where I shall go first or when.

XIX.—*Notes on the Avifauna of the Loyalty Islands.* By
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THE following "Notes" on the avifauna of the Loyalty Islands are written to replace a similar paper, unfortunately lost, which was transmitted to the care of our kind coadjutor Canon Tristram in October of last year, together with the collection of specimens on which he has founded his "Notes" at page 180 of the volume for 1879.

Fortunately Canon Tristram was enabled, having the specimens and our letter, to publish our new discoveries, and point out the specialities we desired; and we owe our best thanks to the Editors of 'The Ibis' for the charming and life-like plates of several of our novelties.